

Metropolitan Education Commission

Regional College Access Center

Advisory Group Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 8:30am

Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Lower Level Meeting Room, 101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ

Attendees: Dr. June Webb-Vignery, David Rodriguez, Felicia Ramirez, Frannie Neal, Michelle Simon, Vicky Mullins, Christina Capriato

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The Roll Call was conducted; a Quorum was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was recited by all attendees.

4.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

RCAC Director, David Rodriguez, welcomed everyone to the meeting and began introductions of attendees.

5.0 APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2015 RCAC MEETING MINUTES

Motion to Approve: Vicky Mullins.

Second: Michelle Simon.

Motion approved unanimously.

6.0 RCAC UPDATES – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

6.1 Helios Grant and College Knowing & Going Initiative (CKGI) will be implemented across the TUSD, Flowing Wells, Sunnyside, Vail and Nogales school districts. ACT testing will be provided for juniors. This will aid in FAFSA completion and post-secondary education opportunities. With the early FAFSA completion starting in October, juniors and seniors can receive more information on the AZ Earn to Learn program. The CKGI evaluation and research is in conjunction with The University of Chicago, specifically how many Latino/a student matriculate to college.

6.2 FAFSA Challenge Grant for \$55,000 will hopefully bump up the FAFSA completion rate higher than 42%. MEC is in competition with 67 other programs, with only 20 selected. MEC would work with the University of Arizona College Advising Corps, Pima Community College, TUSD, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona, United Way, and AmeriCorps.

6.3 Introduction of new AmeriCorps VISTA member, Frannie Neal. Recently graduated from the University of South Carolina, Frannie is the new AmeriCorps VISTA member and Regional College Access Coordinator at the MEC. Frannie is also working very closely with the Community Schools Initiative. Frannie is developing workshops and

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program trainings for ambassadors, counselors, and partners. Frannie also created an online scheduling system for the RCAC, which has proved effective thus far.

6.4 Student Ambassador Recruitment. We will be adding 21 Student Ambassadors within the eight schools, as well as adding Tucson High School and possibly Rincon High School. Last year's recruitment was very rushed, due to late AmeriCorps funding. There will be an earlier, proper training this year for Student Ambassadors. David provided an update on our current ambassadors and their excellent work.

6.5 Summer Melt Program- Felicia and Frannie will be helping David implement this program, along with AmeriCorps members across TUSD, Flowing Wells, Vail, etc. Our main focus this year is on students planning to attend Pima Community College in the fall. David discussed the various barriers and challenges that we have seen thus far. We will be conducting phone calls, site visits, etc. to clear up any last minute requirements. This program is funded by the city for \$32,355.00. Felicia will be going back to full-time.

7.0 PROVIDER ANNOUNCEMENTS – DAVID RODRIGUEZ

The following are short synopses of the Provider Announcements:

7.1 Christina Capriato, AZ Earn to Learn: AZ Earn to Learn is working with the Center for Enterprise Development. They are growing very quickly within its fourth year. This next year, they will be implementing a waiting list which means stricter deadlines. Students will need to get their applications in sooner. This summer, they will be working on planning and finding students at non-traditional schools to make partners with. The hope is to do training with the University of Arizona. Heather mentioned that this scholarship is stackable along with other university ones.

7.2 Vicky Mullins, Tucson Indian Center: TIC is interested in having tours at the university for their students, with a focus on Native American students. It is important to have events and resources at the center, to increase family involvement. There is a connection with the local library branch across the street. There is a concern with the urban population of students. We need to advertise their students' successes. The drop-out rate is around 60%. The university is open to providing tours. The contact for this is Kasey John, who was a student from the center and now the recruiter for Native American students.

7.3 Michelle Simon, Pima County Public Library: The library updated its poster with the mission, vision, and values. The library is an educational institution with innovative ways to learn a variety of topics and increase foot traffic. The library is very involved in the following four programs: Ending Poverty Now, United Way's Cradle to Career, AmeriCorps Community Schools Initiative, and the White House Connect Ed Challenge. With the help of their AmeriCorps member, Mega, the library has hosted library card days at local high schools to increase the amount of students signed up for library cards and promote the library within the community. The library recently received a grant from the Tohono O'odham Nation to update the Book Mobile with wifi and more books. The library also is able to provide free e-books to low-income students via "First Book". This is for Title 1 schools and provides access to thousands of books for students from different levels of reading. The library reported that they serve 70% low-income students and families.

Dates to keep in mind: Summer Reading begins May 21st. The ACT Prep classes are very popular, with one class on July 19th full and limited space in the second class on July 20th. Library program instructors will be available to help, and this will demonstrate the impact of the library in the college application process. During these workshops, there will also be help in creating College Greenlight accounts. They will also hand out information for the RCAC and promote via social media and the library website. The University of Arizona, MEC RCAC, and the library are partnering for the UofA Day at the Library event on July 23rd. All are invited to attend this event. Lastly, through the LTSC Grant, there is a career online high school that targets students who cannot complete high school before the age of 22. This resource will help them earn a high school diploma within 18 months, which will then enable them to pursue a post-secondary education. The library provides scholarships and career certificates along with this. Heather also mentioned that she can connect them with the UA Online program.

7.4 Dr. June Webb-Vignery, Metropolitan Education Commission: This year has been very successful thus far. MEC was able to have the Helios Foundation come to Tucson and hold press conference to kick off the CKGI at Catalina High School. This grant lasts four years and provides \$80,000 per year to the MEC. This is part of the College Knowing and Going Initiative, which is a \$5.1 million grant spread throughout the state. The Key to Employment was very successful. 400 students attended and received tours, workshops, and visits from exhibitors. Likewise, the YAC/TTC organized a Teen Town Hall and visited the legislative leaders in Phoenix.

7.5 Heather Rosinbum, University of Arizona Admissions Office: Commencement will be held May 13, 2016 at 7am in the UA Stadium. The speaker will be the current surgeon general. In recent years, the university has quadrupled the number of students who attend graduation. As part of Michelle Obama's Reaching Higher Initiative, the College Signing Day was a success at Tucson High School, with 20 students attending. The university will be involved in the following summer programs: orientation from May to August, Welcome Week, UA Clicks, July tours for rising juniors, and UA Day at the Library. The UA Day at the Library will host workshops and browse sessions from College Greenlight, AZ Earn to Learn, UA Transfer, UA Online, Freshman Recruitment, a current student panel, college and resume prep, and various student organizations.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT – DR. JUNE WEBB-VIGNERY

Motion: Michelle Simon

Second: David Rodriguez

The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.